

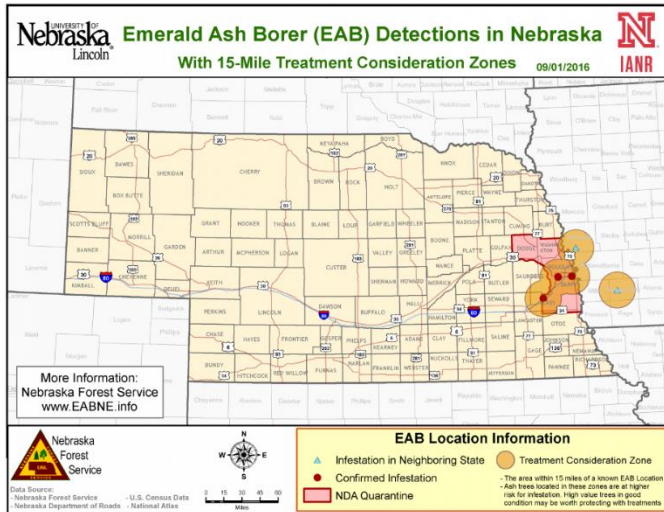
**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Report To  
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board  
May 10, 2018  
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



May is National Wetlands Month, making it the perfect time to celebrate one of nature's most productive ecosystems.

This year, NRCS celebrates 25 years of protecting wetlands. During this time, NRCS has helped thousands of landowners enroll acreage – in record numbers – to protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on their property.

- Half of all North American bird species use wetlands for feeding or nesting.
- More than 1/3 of all threatened or endangered species are dependent on wetland habitat.
- Greatest potential for wetland restoration exists on privately owned forests, ranches and farms. In fact, 75% of the nation's wetlands are located on private and tribal lands.
- Private landowners and entities such as land trusts and conservation organizations have enrolled 2.7 million acres through 14,500 agreements for a total NRCS and partner investment of \$4.3 billion in financial and technical assistance.



**Landowners have until May 18 to apply for funds to renovate windbreaks impacted by Emerald Ash Borer.**

Nebraska is the home of Arbor Day and known as the “tree planters state,” but the Emerald Ash Borer will put Nebraska’s tree-planting prowess to the test as the small insect starts to wipe out ash trees.

To help ease the blow, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing funding to mitigate the impending devastation caused by the Emerald Ash Borer. Through the NRCS Emerald Ash Borer Initiative, landowners can apply for funding to renovate windbreaks on their land. Landowners have until May 18 to apply.

The goal of this initiative is to help landowners be proactive in removing and replacing the ash trees in their windbreaks before they become infested. This will help slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer and help protect landowners from further tree damage.

Landowners in the Papio-Missouri, Lower Platte South, Nemaha, Lower Big Blue, Upper Big Blue, Lower Platte North, Lower Elkhorn and Lewis and Clark natural resources districts are eligible to apply, but applications closest to locations currently infested with Emerald Ash Borer will receive the highest priority. For more information, or to apply for funding through this initiative, visit an NRCS field office before May 18.



Scott Schmidt, Blair Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, has resigned his position. We wish him well on future endeavors.

Rob Gray has been selected to fill the Blair position. Rob was serving as the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in Wahoo. Welcome Rob!!

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